National Agriculture Policy

1675. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are finalising a National Agriculture Policy;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the proposed policy; and

(c) the various organisations/interests who have been associated/consulted with the formulation of this policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) A comprehensive National Agricultural Policy is under formulation.

Central Assistance to Orissa

1676. SHRI NARENDRA PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of Central assistance given to the Agriculture Department of Orissa during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have monitored the effective utilisation of the assistance sanctioned to the State;

(c) whether any report has been received alleging misutilisation of the said funds; and

(d) if so, what action is being contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Total amount of Central Assistance given to Agriculture Department of Orissa during the last three years was as follows:

Year	Amount given (Rs. Crores)
1995-96	37.74
1996-97	44.86
1997-98	41.13 (Provisional)

(b) Yes, Sir. Effective utilisation of Central assistances sanctioned to the State is monitored through the utilisation Certificates sent by the State Government from time to time.

(c) and (d) As per report furnished by State Government, no misappropriation has taken place.

Investment in Agricultural Sector

1677. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether public sector investment in agriculture is declining;

(b) if so, the investment in agriculture by public sector as well as private sector during the last five years;

(c) what are the reasons for low public investment in agriculture; and

(d) how Government propose to reverse the trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Though there has been an increasing trend in the 90s in the total investment in agriculture, the growth in public sector investment has been sluggish and, in fact, has declined during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) The details of investment in agriculture by public sector as well as private sector during the last five year are as under:

Gross Capital Formation in Agriculture (at 1980-81 prices)

(Rs. crore)

Year	Total	Public Sector	Private Sector
1992-93	5372	1061	4311
1993-94	5031	1153	3878
1994-95	6256	1316	4940
1995-96	6961	1268	5693
1996-97	6999	1132	5867

(c) The main reasons for slow growth in the investment/capital formation in agriculture sector include increased public